

Eastside Neighborhood Plan

Meeting 1 Summary
June 19, 2008

Defining the Vision



Visioning the Eastside

The Eastside Neighborhood Plan officially kicked off on June 19, 2008 with a community meeting held in the auditorium at Longfellow Elementary School. Over thirty people braved summer temperatures exceeding 100 degrees to attend this important meeting and shared their thoughts about living, working, shopping, eating, learning, and playing in the Eastside Neighborhood.



Following a brief introduction describing the neighborhood planning process, the participants were asked to share their thoughts about important issues within the Eastside Neighborhood. The residents were asked to answer the following three questions intended to begin formulating a vision: (1) *What are the top three things you like about your neighborhood?*; (2) *What are the top three things you would like to see changed in your neighborhood?*; and (3) *What do you feel are the 3 biggest challenges facing your neighborhood?*



Individuals were given an opportunity to both provide written comments on provided feedback forms and to also share the comments verbally with the group. The comments were transcribed live onto a computer and projected at the front of the room to ensure that all comments were recorded correctly. The feedback forms were then collected at the close of the meeting and the results were transcribed verbatim and combined with the results obtained during the open discussion to produce this summary document.

The document is divided into three major headings, one for each of the three questions posed to the participants.



During the development of this report, a number of major themes began to surface within the comments. As such, the comments have been categorized into these themes to aid in the development of a neighborhood Vision Statement for the Eastside Neighborhood.



Question #1: What do you like about the Eastside Neighborhood?

Through the brainstorming session, the residents were eager to talk about their neighborhood. An overwhelming number of comments highlighted the diverse, friendly and family-oriented neighborhood whose residents have a strong sense of community and pride about their neighborhood. The comments have been categorized into eight community themes below, which are sorted by the number of comments received by theme. To alleviate repetition, multiple, identical comments are represented once, with the total number of identical comments indicated in parentheses.

HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOODS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- | | |
|--|--|
| ★ Historic Neighborhood along Mission Inn Avenue | ★ The neighbors I have met! |
| ★ Historic | ★ Wonderfully diverse community |
| ★ Connectivity to the past | ★ Community of family |
| ★ The history of my street and neighborhood preservation. Want to save historical background of street | ★ It's a big city and a lot of community |
| ★ Historic District | ★ It's a city [with] a lot of students |
| ★ I moved here because of the old houses and historic district | ★ Love my neighbors |
| ★ Old historic houses | ★ The neighbors are friendly and family oriented |
| ★ Historical homes | ★ Friendly neighbors |
| ★ The beauty of the older homes | ★ Good councilman Andy Melendrez |
| ★ Diversity in the Neighborhoods | ★ Diverse people from all over the country/world |
| ★ Comfortable neighborhood with front porches | ★ My neighbors |
| ★ Diversity (4 comments) | ★ Having my family and friends |
| ★ Different cultures | ★ The unity shared by all neighbors |
| ★ Openness of the community | ★ 1 month living Riverside, I am re-born! |
| ★ Friendliness | ★ It's made for families |
| ★ Community of family | ★ It's big |
| ★ Everyone knows everyone | ★ Pride of ownership and neighborhood |
| ★ Spirit of Eastside everywhere you go | ★ I live in my childhood home so I have a sense of belonging |
| ★ Good Leadership | ★ Councilman – Andy Melendrez and police dept |
| ★ Good Council Member | ★ The effort done by city to improve our neighborhood |
| ★ Community coming together | ★ I'm from Wisconsin but Riverside is my home!! |
| ★ Sense of tight knit family | ★ Friendliness |
| ★ Partnership with Schools, City, and the Community | ★ Beautiful neighborhood |
| ★ At least 20 old neighbors on 3 streets | ★ Location-view |
| ★ All races with diverse staff | |
| ★ Family-hard-working oriented people of all backgrounds | |

HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

- ★ RPD doing their job
- ★ Families walking along University Avenue and a good sense of safety
- ★ Calm and quiet
- ★ Good Police Department
- ★ Accomplishment with the cameras along the Victoria Avenue Bridge
- ★ Prompt removal of graffiti
- ★ Police need improvement but doing better
- ★ Police response
- ★ There is more security
- ★ Bridge camera and fences installed
- ★ It's quiet (3 comments)
- ★ Quietness of Street
- ★ It's clean
- ★ Quiet street (for the most time)
- ★ Clean community thanks to Code Enforcement
- ★ The removal of graffiti
- ★ Up keep
- ★ Prompt removal of graffiti

PARKS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

- ★ Park and Recreation Program for kids and community
- ★ Culture Festivals at the park that bring the community together
- ★ Increased opportunities in park and recreation
- ★ New Senior Center at Bordwell Park
- ★ Recreation programs including. sports, technology, etc.
- ★ Parks (amount)
- ★ The youth summer programs
- ★ Bordwell Park; In New Community Center
- ★ Community center being completed at Bordwell
- ★ Some of our parks
- ★ City Wide Internet a plus for the community
- ★ Citywide internet
- ★ The landscaping around the cemetery





LAND USE, DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

- ★ Removal of the Liquor stores along University Avenue
- ★ University Village
- ★ Demolishing and cleaning of old and neglected property
- ★ The rebuilding of University Ave.
- ★ The removing of the main liquor stores
- ★ The rebuilding of the University Ave
- ★ The removal of liquor stores
- ★ Elimination of the liquor stores and motels
- ★ Large lots for homes and they are uniquely built (no more tract homes!)
- ★ All homes are independently designed and built
- ★ The development department have more staff to help the neighborhoods

TRAFFIC, TRANSIT, WALKABILITY AND PARKING

- ★ Bus services from the RTA
- ★ Metrolink
- ★ Walkability to various locations
- ★ People not parking in the front of my house so no one else can park
- ★ Near bus stop
- ★ Location
- ★ We are in walking distance of downtown
- ★ Close to Downtown
- ★ Close to necessary places (stores, church, etc.)
- ★ Close to needed shopping places
- ★ I get to live where I work!



Question #2: What would you like to see changed in the Eastside Neighborhood?

As demonstrated by the many positive comments received in response to Question #1, there is a great deal of community pride in the Eastside Neighborhood. Because of this pride, many residents feel that enhancements or changes could be made throughout the Eastside Neighborhood to create a more enjoyable environment for all. The comments were largely focused on the enforcement of existing laws, regulations and codes as well as the enhancement and expansion of park, recreation, arts and cultural programs and facilities.

The comments have been categorized into ten community themes below, which are sorted by the number of comments received by theme. To alleviate repetition, multiple, identical comments are represented once, with the total number of identical comments indicated in parentheses.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

- ★ People need to stop parking on the lawns, perhaps city can put the info in the city utility bill
- ★ Make others responsible for prostitution, someone other than the Police Department
- ★ Police Department more diligent and focus more on the neighborhood in detail
- ★ Traffic patrolling along 14th
- ★ Bus stops are dangerous for the children, cars driving around the buses putting the children at risk
- ★ Smoking restrictions in apt. dwellings
- ★ No parking on lawns
- ★ Trash cans on back
- ★ Prompt attention to bad properties and owners
- ★ More enforcement of code violations
- ★ Graffiti
- ★ Prostitution, drugs on Comer and Eucalyptus
- ★ More police patrol at bus benches
- ★ Encourage recycling
- ★ I would like for the police to be more diligent
- ★ Gang activity
- ★ Clean up drug trafficking and prostitution
- ★ More control on speeding traffic on Mission Inn Ave.
- ★ More lighting
- ★ More lighting on Mission Inn, between Park and Comer
- ★ More Police Patrol
- ★ Street lighting
- ★ More security
- ★ More bike patrol. Eastside Nac paid for the bikes to be used on the Eastside and now they are gone
- ★ Cops to enforce noise ordinance
- ★ More gang intervention programs
- ★ Prompt attention to derelict houses and code violations
- ★ Restriction of public smoking as it pertains to children More recycling requirements with businesses, schools, apt. complexes
- ★ Trees trimmed when needed



LAND USE, DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

- ★ Housing assistance relief such as in utilities
- ★ High rents for housing and business
- ★ Lack of low income housing
- ★ More support for local residents to start a business in the Eastside. Encourage local business owners
- ★ Restaurants that actually have a place to sit and enjoy food
- ★ Dairy Queen or similar place
- ★ More diverse business of various cultures and ethnic background
- ★ Encourage the Latino community patronage other business in the area. It is important to embrace local business and are equal stakeholders
- ★ Concern with type of business along the University corridor. Community concern as to the type of business coming in. Viable businesses are needed. Input from redevelopment
- ★ More variety of ethnic food, barbeque, seafood, soul food
- ★ More support for local residents to own businesses
- ★ Create jobs in the community, so residents can feel proud
- ★ I would like to see more diverse business owners
- ★ More low cost homes in vacant lots
- ★ Halfway houses moved
- ★ Different city representatives to attend our meetings
- ★ More color and landscaping, East of RR tracks
- ★ More African American Businesses
- ★ Diversity of Food in the community

PARKS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

- ★ Children programs and services at the library
- ★ New library in the Eastside, Cybrary not enough. The current library has waiting lines to access the computer
- ★ More creative artistic activities for the children. Increase in the Arts
- ★ Open a center for high school aged children to keep them off the street.
- ★ More recreational facilities for teenagers
- ★ Public art projects with children, representing and encouraging the diversity of the community
- ★ New park in the Eastside with baseball fields, soccer fields some sort of sport complex with various fields for different activities
- ★ More youth activities
- ★ Access for churches into youth program's
- ★ More outlets for Spanish community
- ★ A dog park – an area for small dogs and a separate park are for large dogs
- ★ A new library
- ★ Recreation Facilities (2 Comments)
- ★ More options for youth programs
- ★ More creative architect programs
- ★ Community services in the area
- ★ It seems as though Eastside Cybrary is losing funds for a lot of children's programs. They need more funds!!! This neighborhood cannot afford to lose anymore funds to help children. They are losing motivation!!
- ★ To have an activity to the neighborhood to stop gang and other activity



TRAFFIC, TRANSIT, WALKABILITY, AND PARKING

- ★ Lane striping along 14th between Chicago and Park, up to the freeway
- ★ Encourage integration in the community
- ★ Street well paved and striped for traffic
- ★ Integrate the University Ave. corridor to link UCR and Downtown
- ★ More walking paths or sidewalks – walkability
- ★ Amount of traffic and speed
- ★ Re-route RTA buses off of Mission Inn Ave over to University Ave
- ★ Sidewalks on Mission Inn, East of RR tracks
- ★ Traffic
- ★ More accessible side walks
- ★ Diesel trucks at times
- ★ More street maintenance (2 Comments)
- ★ Narrow streets
- ★ No view 14th and Victoria and Bordwell Park Intersection
- ★ The street fixed on Ottawa Ave
- ★ Expand the landscaping along Mission Inn beyond Vine into the Eastside to match that of Downtown
- ★ Clean streets
- ★ Street sweeping more than twice a month

HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOODS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- ★ City should look at homeowners accountable for their homes in the Historic District.
- ★ Accessibility of historic homes to bring into the community
- ★ More emphasis on historic preservation
- ★ More historical facts to be known about Prince Albert Drive
- ★ Losing historic homes in the community. Would like to have the city support and relocate homes into the historic district. Keep the resources in the area. Students (UCR)
- ★ I would like to see more people get involved
- ★ We really need to grow up. There just ain't nothing in the world so bad that you have to put another group of people down and deliberately make them suffer physically, economically, or emotionally. This is the 21st Century by God its time to stop the craziness!!
- ★ Reasonable rent for business and housing
- ★ More community involvement and take ownership of their neighborhood
- ★ Increase low-income housing availability in the neighborhood
- ★ Separation of neighborhoods due to the new homes and older homes
- ★ Need more time in area Instill pride of ownership of property
- ★ Keep rental homes maintained to fit atmosphere of neighborhood
- ★ Would like to see it remembered and maintained as one of the nicest streets in the city. Historic
- ★ Landscaping on front yards
- ★ Curb appeal improvement

EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- ★ Another Elementary School in the Eastside
- ★ Adult Spanish education
- ★ Encourage further education among the community
- ★ ROP programs that promote trade skills
- ★ Another community elementary school
- ★ Business: What? On University and Ottawa
- ★ Elementary schools
- ★ Promote online education, bigger selection of ROP programs for trade schools
- ★ Adult education (English classes for the Spanish speakers)
- ★ We need a junior high school in the East side

Question #3:

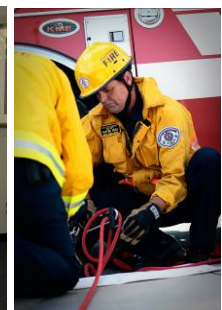
What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing the Eastside Neighborhood?

Following the discussion of opportunities facing the Eastside Neighborhood, the residents shared what they felt were the biggest challenges facing the community. Issues related to safety, security and code enforcement rose to the top of the list, with comments related to community and social issues closely following.

The comments have been categorized into eight community themes below, which are sorted by the number of comments received by theme. To alleviate repetition, multiple, identical comments are represented once, with the total number of identical comments indicated in parentheses.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

- ★ More gang intervention programs for teenagers before they get into High School
- ★ Get information out about the Gang Injunction to junior high school
- ★ Slum lords and eyesore properties
- ★ Slum landlords
- ★ Continued help from city to improve properties
- ★ Owners/landlords renting out to problematic people: drugs, increased noise (multiple families in a 1-bdrm), and who don't care for properties
- ★ Code enforcement night shift
- ★ More code enforcement
- ★ More animal control
- ★ Gang conflict – stop arresting and help
- ★ Crime (2 Comments)
- ★ Crime – at night in the park; small parking lot across from park [Dario Vasquez Park]
- ★ Police response time
- ★ Get rid of the drug abusers
- ★ Prostitution (4 Comments)
- ★ Crime – drugs and prostitution
- ★ Crime and prostitutes (SP.) (Hookers)
- ★ Drugs
- ★ Music too loud on cars plus traffic violations
- ★ Gang conflict – stop arresting and help
- ★ Homeless
- ★ Groups of men hanging around on corners – eye soar
- ★ Overgrown tree and shrubs. (Keeping them trimmed)
- ★ Less or no halfway houses
- ★ Not having our issues better looked into





HOUSING, NEIGHBORHOODS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- ★ More people to attending community meetings, to help inform the public
- ★ Getting information out in a timely manner.
- ★ Electronic marquee at Bobby Bonds to get the information out
- ★ Billboard in the community
- ★ Having community concerns heard and given a timely response from the City with some resolution
- ★ Dealing with the homeless
- ★ Services for those who are in danger of losing their home or at risk of becoming homeless
- ★ Information about meetings in the Downtown and University Neighborhoods that may have a direct impact with the Eastside
- ★ Uncooperative neighbors
- ★ I hate to say this but bigotry between African and Latino
- ★ Getting together for neighborhood events
- ★ Home ownership struggles
- ★ Lack of avenue for Victory Outreach to reach gangs (4 Comments)
- ★ Not enough help from the community for churches (4 Comments)
- ★ Everyone takes pride in the community
- ★ More show up for meetings which is very important
- ★ Just get involved
- ★ Alienation of Hispanic neighbors (Indifference)
- ★ Having people know our neighborhood is not as bad as people make it to be
- ★ Get the word out about community meetings

TRAFFIC, TRANSIT, WALKABILITY AND PARKING

- ★ Increase of traffic in the area as UCR expands
- ★ Increase of traffic due to the Metrolink
- ★ Traffic – particularly cut-through traffic
- ★ Lots of cars parked after certain hours
- ★ Parking so expensive
- ★ Pot holes on the corner of Eucalyptus and Georgia St.
- ★ 14th Street blind intersection Bordwell – 91 fwy



LAND USE, DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

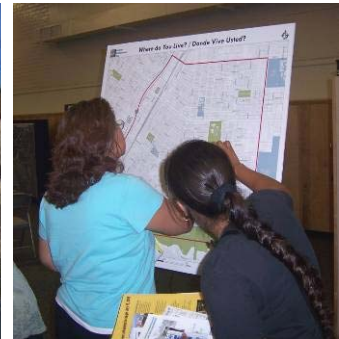
- ★ Expansion of downtown
- ★ Housing
- ★ Economic challenges to owning rather than renting
- ★ Vacant Lots/Buildings
- ★ Loss of old houses due to neglect and fire
- ★ Effects of UCR's growth plans
- ★ Being a complement to downtown and UCR

PARKS, RECREATION, ARTS AND CULTURE

- ★ Performing arts venue that is outdoors
- ★ Large community center for the whole neighborhood
- ★ A large Community Center to pursue all races with diverse staff
- ★ Need more places to have live drama's for gangs and drug addicts etc...like community centers (4 Comments)
- ★ Financial education programs for youth

EDUCATION, JOB TRAINING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- ★ Elementary schools
- ★ Lack of educating the people
- ★ A good education for adults
- ★ Job opportunities. High cost of doing business
- ★ Creation of medium-high paying jobs



Thank You!

The City of Riverside would like to extend a "thank you" to everyone who participated in the first Eastside Neighborhood Plan community meeting. Your input will help define the vision and shape the future of the Eastside Neighborhood.